

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing plastic bags, the method comprising the steps of:
folding a web of plastic to form an elongate folded web having free ends;
securing closer tape to the free ends of the elongate folded web;
forming end stops in the closer tape at spaced locations thereof, such step including the step of creating an indicia in each of the end stops, wherein the indicia designates at least one of a production line that produced the plastic bags and a time at which the bags were produced; and
simultaneously severing and sealing the elongate folded web at each of the spaced locations to produce individual bags.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming end stops comprises the step of ultrasonically embossing a pattern into the closer tape.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of ultrasonically embossing includes the step of moving a weld horn toward an anvil wherein the zipper tape is captured between the weld horn and the anvil.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the pattern is formed by a textured surface of the anvil.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the pattern is formed by a textured surface of a horn.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the indicia is formed by a button removably received in a bore in the anvil.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the indicia designates [[a]] the production line that produced the plastic bags.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the indicia designates [[a]] ~~the period of time during~~ at which the bags were produced.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of forming the end stops comprises the step of embossing first and second different indicia on opposite sides of each of a plurality of bag end locations and wherein the step of simultaneously severing and sealing comprises the step of severing and sealing the elongate folded web at positions substantially coincident with each of the bag end locations.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the first indicia designates [[a]] the production line that produced the plastic bags.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the second indicia designates [[a]] ~~the period of time during~~ at which the bags were produced.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the further step of slidably attaching a slider to the closer tape.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, further including the step of forming a knurled pattern in the web of plastic at a point adjacent the end stop.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the knurled pattern is formed by a movable portion of the anvil.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the movable portion is moved by a threaded rod.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the movable portion is movable by at least one screw disposed in a threaded bore.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the step of forming a sealed portion in the closer tape adjacent to a closer profile.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of forming a sealed portion includes the step of guiding the closer tape using an at least one upstanding surface.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a plastic bag, the method comprising the steps of:

folding a web of plastic to form an elongate folded web having free ends;

securing closer tape to the free ends of the elongate folded web;

forming first and second end stops in the closer tape at spaced locations thereof, such step including the steps of welding portions of at least one of the closer tape and the folded web together at first and second areas adjacent the first and second end stops, respectively, and creating an indicia in at least one of the first and second areas and the first and second end stops, wherein the indicia designates at least one of a production line that produced the plastic bags and a time at which the bags were produced; and

simultaneously severing and sealing the elongate folded web at each of the spaced locations to produce a bag.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of forming the first and second end stops comprises the step of ultrasonically embossing a pattern into the closer tape.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the step of ultrasonically embossing includes the step of moving a weld horn toward an anvil wherein the zipper tape is captured between the weld horn and the anvil.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the pattern is formed by a textured surface of the anvil.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the pattern is formed by a textured surface of a horn.

24. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the indicia is formed by a button removably received in a bore in the anvil.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the indicia designates ~~[[a]]~~ the production line that produced the plastic bags.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the indicia designates ~~[[a]]~~ the period of time during at which the bags were produced.

27. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the step of forming the first and second end stops comprises the step of embossing first and second different indicia on opposite sides of each of first and second bag end locations and wherein the step of simultaneously severing and sealing comprises the step of severing and sealing the elongate folded web at positions substantially coincident with each of the first and second bag end locations.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27, wherein the first indicia designates ~~[[a]]~~ the production line that produced the plastic bags.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the second indicia designates ~~[[a]]~~ the period of time during at which the bags were produced.

30. (Original) The method of claim 19, including the further step of slidably attaching a slider to the closer tape.

31. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the first and second areas include a knurled pattern in the web of plastic.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the knurled pattern is formed by a movable portion of the anvil.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the movable portion is moved by a threaded rod.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein the movable portion is movable by at least one screw disposed in a threaded bore.

35. (Original) The method of claim 19, including the step of forming a sealed portion in the closer tape adjacent to a closer profile.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of forming a sealed portion includes the step of guiding the closer tape using an at least one upstanding portion of a slider ring.